

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 17106 011354Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /015 W

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P R 011255Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMCONGEN LENIGRAD

SECSTATE WASHDC 482

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FOR IEU, ICS/E; STATE FOR EUR/SOV; P&C/LENINGRAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, UR

SUBJ: PHOTOGRAPHY USA EXHIBIT

1. NOVAK/HARROD CONDUCTED SITE SURVEY TBILISI OCTOBER 27-29. PAVILION NUMBER ONE AT GEORGIAN EXHIBITION OF ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENTS ACCEPTABLE, ALTHOUGH ELIMINATION OF SLIDE SHOW THEATER NECESSARY BECAUSE OF PAVILION DIMENSIONS. PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT SIGNED OCTOBER 28. PAVILION FLOOR PLAN, PHOTOGRAPHIC FILM SHOT BY NOVAK, DRAWINGS AND OTHER MATERIALS BEING POUCHED TO ICS/XP FOR SUIB NOVEMBER 2. EMBASSY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS USIA APPROVAL TBILISI SHOWING PHOTOGRAPHY USA WITH OPENING DECEMBER 27.

2. SITE IS MAIN PAVILION IMMEDIATELY OPPOSITE ENTRANCE TO GROUNDS OF EXHIBITION OF ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENTS. LOCAL EXHIBIT OFFICIALS INITIALLY VISIBLY RELUCTANT TO MAKE PAVILION AVAILABLE TO AMERICAN SIDE, SINCE IT IS CENTRAL INTRODUCTORY PAVILION FOR ENTIRE EXHIBITION GROUNDS AND CONTAINS PERMANENT DISPLAYS ON GEORGIAN REPUBLIC. EQUALLY VISIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT HIGHER CONSIDERATIONS OVERRODE LOCAL FEELINGS. WHEN AMERICAN SIDE INDICATED THAT PHOTOGRAPHY USA COULD, ALBEIT WITH DIFFICULTY, BE ACCOMMODATED TO PAVILION NUMBER ONE BUT NOT TO

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 17106 011354Z

ALTERNATIVE SITE OFFERED BY GEORGIANS, LOCAL CHAMBER

OFFICIALS IMMEDIATELY FELL INTO STEP. GEORGIAN CHAMBER CHAIRMAN RAFAIL SEMONOVICH YELIGULASHVILI, ALMOST AS AFTERTHOUGHT, AFTER DOCUMENT OF PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT ALREADY DRAWN UP, SAID: "I SUPPOSE WE'D BETTER CALL UP THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (WHO IS TITULAR SUPERVISOR OF ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENTS EXHIBITION) TO TELL HIM WE'RE TAKING HIS PAVILION AWAY."

3. PAVILION IN SHAP OF S-CURVE, APPROXIMATELY 140 METERS IN LENGTH WITH AVERAGE USABLE WIDTH OF 7.80 METERS. NET EXHIBIT SPACE APPROXIMATELY 1100 SQUARE METERS. SOVIETS WILL ALSO PROVIDE 400 SQUARE METERS OUTDOOR STORAGE FOR CONTAINERS. QUESTION OF OFFICE SPACE LEFT OPEN PENDING ACTUAL CONFIGURATION OF EXHIBIT. IF NO AVAILABLE SPACE IN PAVILION NUMBER ONE FOR STAFF OFFICES, GUIDE LOUNGE, ETC., PAVILION NUMBER TEN ADJACENT CONTAINS FOURTEEN OFFICES, SOME OF WHICH COULD BE TAKEN FOR PHOTOGRAPHY USA NEEDS.

4. DATES FOR EXHIBIT IN TBILISI AS FOLLOWS: START OF MOUNTING DECEMBER 10; OFFICIAL OPENING DECEMBER 27; OPEN TO PUBLIC DECEMBER 28-JANUARY 30, WITH DAYS OFF DECEMBER 31 AND JANUARY 1, 4, 11, 18, 25. DISMANTLING JANUARY 31 - FEBRUARY 9. OFFICIAL OPENING ON DECEMBER 27 TO TAKE PLACE TO 1600 WITH RECEPTION 1700 AT RESTAURANT ON EXHIBITION GROUNDS. OPENING DATE NOT IDEAL, BUT BEST WE CAN DO BASED ON OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS (I.E. TRANSIT TIME FROM ALMA ATA AND LENGTH OF MOUNTING PERIOD).

5. IN ADDITION TO GEORGIAN CHAMBER CHAIRMAN YELIGULASHVILI, NOVAK/HARROD ALSO HAD LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS WITH YAKOV STEPANOVICH GOKIYELI, IN CHARGE OF FOREIGN EXHIBITIONS FOR GEORGIAN CHAMBER, AND WITH DMITRIY PROKOF'YEVICH SORDIYA, HEAD OF CHAMBER'S FOREIGN RELATIONS DEPARTMENT. THESE TWO WILL HAVE PRIME OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES DURING EXHIBIT'S STAY IN TBILISI.

6. TBILISI MAYOR BAKHVA FEDOROVICH LOBZHANIDZE ALSO RECEIVED NOVAK/HARROD FOR HALF-HOUR SESSION AT WHICH MAYOR EXPRESSED HIS PLEASURE AT EXHIBIT'S IMPENDING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 17106 011354Z

ARRIVAL IN CITY AND HIS INTEREST IN SUBJECT MATTER. MAYOR SAID HE HAD BEEN RECENTLY PRESENTED WITH CAMERA BY WEST GERMAN DELEGATION AND WOULD BE "REGULAR VISITOR" TO PHOTOGRAPHY USA TO SEEK ADVICE OF US SPECIALISTS ON HOW TO BEST MAKE USE OF HIS NEW ACQUISITION. FYI, MAYOR LOBZHANIDZE WAS TO HAVE GONE TO MOSCOW FOR SUPREME SOVIET SESSION BUT CANCELLED TRIP DUE TO ILLNESS. HE DID, HOWEVER, FIND TIME ON THREE HOURS' NOTICE TO RE-

CEIVE SITE SURVEY TEAM IN MARKEDLY CORDIAL MANNER.

7. UPON RECEIPT FINAL APPROVAL FROM AGENCY, DETAILS OF EXHIBIT SHOWING IN TBILISI WILL BE DRAWN UP AS ADDENDUM TO REGULAR CONTRACT AND SIGNED BY CHAMBER AND EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES IN MOSCOW.

8. BASIC DETAILS CONVEYED HEREIN PASSED TO QUINN BY PHONE.

9. ACTION: DURING CALL ON MAYOR LOBZHANIDZE, LATTER INDICATED THAT HE HAD AT ONE TIME INITIATED INQUIRIES ON POSSIBLE SISTER-CITY TIES WITH ATLANTA BUT HAD HEARD NOTHING. THIS PLUS CLEAR ATTRACTIVENESS OF "AMERICAN GEORGIA" AND "SOVIET GEORGIA" RELATIONSHIP LEADS US TO SUGGEST AGENCY APPROACH ATLANTA MAYOR JACKSON, GEORGIA GOVERNOR BUSBEE OR MEMBER GEORGIA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION (SUCH AS ANDREW YOUNG) TO REPRESENT USG AT OFFICIAL OPENING IN TBILISI.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CULTURAL EXHIBITS, PHOTOGRAPHY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW17106
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760406-0838
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761194/aaaaddjw.tel
Line Count: 135
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PHOTOGRAPHY USA EXHIBIT
TAGS: SCUL, UR, US
To: USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006